

■ Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) unites the research, higher education, and extension education and outreach resources of USDA, resulting in better customer service and an enhanced ability to respond to emerging issues and current national priorities.

Mission

The mission of CSREES is to achieve significant and equitable improvements in domestic and global economic, environmental, and social conditions by advancing creative and integrated research, education, and extension programs in food, agricultural, and related sciences in partnership with both the public and private sectors.

CSREES leadership increases innovative scientific knowledge and provides key access to this knowledge; strengthens the research, higher education, and extension capabilities of land-grant and other partnering institutions; increases access to and use of improved communication and network systems; and enhances science-based decisionmaking by producers, families, communities, and other customers.

CSREES is committed to creating relevant, excellent, and useful research, education, and extension programs that improve economic, environmental, and social conditions in the United States and globally. Critical quality of life issues addressed include: improved agricultural productivity and new product development; safer, cleaner food, water, and air; enhanced stewardship and management of our land and other natural resources; healthier, more responsible individuals, families, and communities; and a secure, diverse, and affordable national food supply.

Partnerships

CSREES contributions are strengthened by a broad spectrum of public and private partnerships that maximize resources and program impact. Partners include other USDA agencies, Federal and State government departments, nonprofit organizations, and private sector entities. Working closely with the land-grant universities and their representatives enables more effective shared planning, delivery, and

accountability for research, higher education, and extension programs. CSREES partners include:

- Over 130 colleges of agriculture, including land-grant institutions in each State and Territory,
- 59 agricultural experiment stations with over 9,500 scientists conducting research,
- 57 cooperative extension services with over 9,600 local extension agents working in 3,150 counties,

■ **CSREES Is**

- *5.4 million youth involved in 4-H programs that increase self-esteem, promote science literacy, and enhance problem-solving skills in a positive, supportive environment,*
- *Managing Change in Agriculture, a national initiative to help U.S. agricultural producers respond to profound changes in how food is produced, processed, distributed, and marketed in the United States and globally,*
- *The National Research Initiative supporting research in the biological, physical, and social sciences to solve key agricultural and environmental problems,*
- *World Wide Web access to seven national science-based decisionmaking support databases (beef, dairy, pig, sheep, catfish, goat, and poultry) that help farmers, ranchers and producers make sound decisions in the face of increasing economic, environmental, and social demands and the increasing complexity of technologies and information management,*
- *State-of-the-art competitive research programs on value-added product development, plant and animal genomes, integrated pest management, water quality, human nutrition, food safety, and plant and animal systems,*
- *Higher education programs based on identified national needs that develop the scientific and professional expertise required to advance the food, agricultural, and natural resources systems and maintain excellence in college and university teaching programs,*
- *Immediate electronic access to vital disaster safety and recovery information in time-critical disasters, such as hurricanes, wildfires, and floods,*
- *3 million trained volunteers working with national outreach education programs,*
- *Research-based, hands-on education programs in sustainable agriculture; natural resource management and environmental stewardship; water quality; food safety; children, youth, and families; health; community economic development; and distance education.*

- 63 schools of forestry,
- 16 1890 historically black land-grant institutions and Tuskegee University,
- 27 colleges of veterinary medicine,
- 42 schools and colleges of family and consumer sciences,
- 29 1994 Native American land-grant institutions,
- 190 Hispanic-Serving Institutions

Programs

CSREES research, higher education, and extension leadership is provided through programs in Plant and Animal Production, Protection, and Processing; Natural Resources and Environment; Rural, Economic, and Social Development; Families, 4-H, and Nutrition; Partnerships; Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management; Science and Education Resources Development; and Communications, Technology, and Distance Education.

Telecommunications Leadership

CSREES advances cutting-edge technologies, applications, and interactive distance education capabilities to provide key community access to the research, education, and extension knowledge that empowers citizens to be active participants in reshaping society and solving complex problems at the local level. With all State extension system and county offices interconnected through an interactive communication network, CSREES can respond in a timely and credible manner to critical issues and public needs.

For Further Information

Contact your local county extension office (offices are listed under local government in the telephone directory), a land-grant university, or the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-0900. Telephone: 202-720-3029; Fax: 202-690-0289; Internet: csrees@reusda.gov or World Wide Web: <http://www.reusda.gov>

Other CSREES URLs: <http://www.reusda.gov/statepartners/usa.htm>
<http://www.reusda.gov/success/sum97.htm>